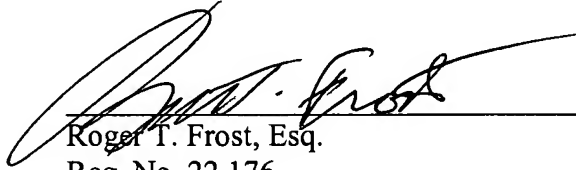


**REMARKS**

Certain claims are amended to remove all multiple dependencies from this Application. These amendments are submitted to avoid paying the surcharge for a multiple-dependent claim. The amendments are not intended to enlarge or diminish the scope of any claim. The applicant requests entry of these amendments and awaits examination in due course.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: January 7, 2004

  
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